

## U.S. Department of Justice U.S. Attorney's Office Western District of Texas

## Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Shana Jones, Special Assistant Daryl Fields, Public Affairs Officer 610 N.W. Loop 410 San Antonio, Texas 78216 (210) 384-7440

## HUSBAND AND WIFE SENTENCED FOR FORCED LABOR INVOLVING 12 YEAR OLD GIRL

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced that in Waco this afternoon, a husband and wife living in Blum, TX, were sentenced to 33 months and 84 months in federal prison, respectively, for forced labor and human trafficking offenses.

In addition to the prison terms, United States District Judge Walter Smith, Jr., ordered that 55-year-old Robert Doyle Maddox and 34-year-old Angela Galeana de Maddox be placed under supervised release for three years after completing their prison terms. Judge Smith also ordered the defendants to pay \$28,821.51 restitution to the victim for back wages.

"Forcing a child to live under the conditions such as this girl lived is deplorable. Thankfully, her nightmare is over and Mr. and Mrs. Maddox are on their way to a well deserved and long stay inside a federal prison," stated United States Attorney Johnny Sutton.

On March 7, 2006, the defendants pleaded guilty to one count each of forced labor and transporting an illegal alien. According to court records, the defendants traveled to Guerrero, Mexico, to visit family in December 2003. While there, they arranged to smuggle a 12-year-old minor female into the United States to babysit their children. The defendants paid the minor's mother approximately \$10 and agreed to send her \$50 per month for the minor's services. On January 13, 2004, the defendants concealed the minor in their vehicle and knowingly smuggled the illegal alien into the United States at the Laredo Port of Entry.

After arriving at the Maddox's residence, the 12-year-old victim was instructed to do all of the domestic work inside and outside the home as well as care for the defendants' small children. Initially, the victim was allowed to share a bed with one of the Maddox's daughters, but was later forced to sleep on the floor. The victim requested to attend school, but was denied by the defendants. In addition, the victim informed authorities that Angela de Maddox hit, slapped and kicked her, pulled her hair and attempted to force her to drink water from a toilet. In addition, the defendants convinced the victim that she could not leave their residence and return home to Mexico. The defendants told the victim that she would suffer serious harm or physical restraint or even be jailed if she tried to leave.

Authorities discovered the victim on November 27, 2005, when Hill County Sheriff's deputies were dispatched to the defendants' residence in response to a reported drug overdose.

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"Today's sentencing exemplifies the disregard for human dignity," said Alonzo Pena, special agent-in-charge for the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) San Antonio office. "This young Mexican girl was promised a job to earn money to send back home, instead she was subjected to deprave and horrific circumstances that will remain a part of her life. ICE continues to work aggressively to identify and dismantle criminal networks involved in human trafficking abuses."

This case was the result of an investigation by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Department of Labor and the Hill County Sheriff's Office. Assistant United States Attorney Greg Gloff prosecuted this case on behalf of the Government.

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